

**Please note: All articles are available in the attached PDF.*

**To receive the Daily News Digest in your inbox, email R6Press@epa.gov.*

1 – EPA’s Wheeler to Talk Directly to States About Collaborating, Bloomberg, 4/8/19

<https://news.bloombergenvironment.com/environment-and-energy/epas-wheeler-to-talk-directly-to-states-about-collaborating-48>

EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler, who frequently talks about federal-state collaboration, will take his message directly to state regulators today.

2 – BGOV Bill Summary: H.R. 2030, Colorado River Drought Plans, Bloomberg, 4/5/19

<https://news.bloombergenvironment.com/environment-and-energy/bgov-bill-summary-h-r-2030-colorado-river-drought-plans>

Drought contingency plans for the Colorado River basin negotiated by seven states and other stakeholders would be implemented under H.R. 2030. The two plans — one for the upper basin and one for the lower basin — set out commitments to reduce states’ water usage and target minimum water levels for reservoirs in the watershed, such as Lake Mead on the Arizona-Nevada border and Lake Powell on the Utah-Arizona border.

3 – Lawmakers target lapses in Deer Park fire response, lax regulations, Laredo Times, 4/5/19

<https://www.lmtonline.com/news/politics/texas/article/Lawmakers-target-lapses-in-Deer-Park-fire-13746005.php>

Lawmakers on Friday grilled the director of the state’s top environmental agency and local government officials on whether Texas laws are doing enough to protect the public from incidents like the Deer Park chemical fire.

4 – Texas House committees to hold joint hearing on ITC Deer Park fire, CBS Austin, 4/5/19

<https://cbsaustin.com/news/local/house-committees-to-hold-joint-hearing-on-itc-deer-park-fire>

Texas lawmakers held a joint hearing Friday morning regarding a massive fire that broke out at a Houston-area petrochemicals storage facility just about three weeks ago. The fire began Sunday, March 17 at a storage tank at the International Terminals Company in Deer Park, sending a huge, dark plume of smoke thousands of feet in the air.

5 – 2nd Texas chemical fire in about 2 weeks kills worker, Fairfield Current, 4/6/19

<https://www.fairfieldcurrent.com/news/2019/04/06/2nd-texas-chemical-fire-in-about-2-weeks-kills-worker.html>

A tank holding a flammable chemical caught fire at a Texas plant sending panicked employees fleeing over a weapon to security, critically injuring two others and killing one employee. The fatality was confirmed by Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez and the two injured were taken by helicopter to a hospital. Both wounded were in serious condition, said spokeswoman for the Harris County Fire Marshal’s Office, Rachel Moreno.

6 – Work on access road starts at Bella Vista stump dump, North West Arkansas Democrat Gazette, 4/6/19

<https://www.nwaonline.com/news/2019/apr/06/work-on-access-road-starts-at-bella-vis/>

Work started Thursday on a needed access road near an underground fire that’s been burning since July, a state official said. This phase of work also will include continued site preparation and construction of a low dam, said Donnally Davis with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality.

7 – Backwater flood revives once-rejected pump project to lower flood risk, Magnolia State Live, 4/7/19

<https://www.magnoliastatelive.com/2019/04/07/backwater-flood-revives-once-rejected-pump-project-to-lower-flood-risk/>

A rejected project to pump water out of the Yazoo backwater area during floods maybe getting a second look from the Environmental Protection Agency. The Yazoo Backwater Project, which proposed to use a pump installed at the Steele Bayou Control Structure near Eagle Lake to pump floodwaters from the backwater area into the Yazoo River, which flows into the Mississippi, after the backwater level reached 87 feet, was vetoed by the Bush administration in 2008.

8 – Chromium-6 levels in Norman water safe despite exceeding one group's standards, experts say, OU Daily, 4/7/19

http://www.oudaily.com/news/chromium--levels-in-norman-water-safe-despite-exceeding-one/article_6d57b6ae-595f-11e9-ad51-0f1d84dbc5bb.html

Norman's water does not meet one environmental group's drinking water standards, but two water treatment experts said the water is safe and meets federal guidelines.

9 – Meetings this Week, Taos News, 4/7/19

<https://www.taosnews.com/stories/meetings-this-week,56162>

The town of Taos council will consider a summer contract for Taos Air Service, personnel matters for the Taos fire department and a \$750,000 block grant to improve two city wells and a storage tank among other issues at 4 p.m. at the Town of Taos Council Chambers, 120 Civic Plaza Drive. The council also will recognize new town planning director Nathan J. Sanchez. The council also will consider a resolution opposing a draft EPA water rule known as the "Dirty Water Rule" and in executive session will discuss the district court case filed against the town by Patrick Casey.

EPA's Wheeler to Talk Directly to States About Collaborating

By Chuck McCutcheon

Posted April 8, 2019, 5:56 AM

EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler, who frequently talks about federal-state collaboration, will take his message directly to state regulators today.

- Wheeler is among the speakers at the Environmental Council of the States' spring meeting, which runs through Wednesday. He'll be part of a luncheon conversation today with Becky Keogh, the organization's president and director of Arkansas' Department of Environmental Quality.
- Other EPA officials speaking today include Patrick Traylor, deputy assistant administrator for the Office of Enforcement & Compliance Assurance, and Henry Darwin, associate deputy administrator and chief of operations. Several regulators and industry officials also will discuss ways for states to promote innovative technologies to curb methane leaks.

Water as India Election Issue

India's general election starts Thursday, and the availability of safe drinking water ranks among the top issues voters care about, Lou Del Bello writes.

- India is at the top of the list of countries, based on population size, that lack reliable access to safe drinking water, with over 163 million people having no access to water close to home, according to WaterAid research.
- The governing Bharatiya Janata Party says it is working on the issue, while the Congress Party—the main challenger to the administration of Narendra Modi—pledged to form an independent environmental protection authority that would oversee regulations, and replace all the existing bodies. The election continues until May 19.

What Else We're Watching

BGOV Bill Summary: H.R. 2030, Colorado River Drought Plans

By Adam M. Taylor

Posted April 5, 2019, 3:46 PM

Drought contingency plans for the Colorado River basin negotiated by seven states and other stakeholders would be implemented under H.R. 2030.

The two plans — one for the upper basin and one for the lower basin — set out commitments to reduce states' water usage and target minimum water levels for reservoirs in the watershed, such as Lake Mead on the Arizona-Nevada border and Lake Powell on the Utah-Arizona border.

The Colorado River basin includes parts of seven states. Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming are in the upper basin, and Arizona, California, and Nevada make up the lower basin. Various laws, treaties, court decisions, and agreements among river water users govern operations in the basin, including water allocations to each of the states and to Mexico, where the river empties into the Gulf of California.

Representatives of the seven states sent the drought contingency plans and draft implementing legislation to Congress in a March 19 letter.

The river system provides water to 40 million people and supports about 5.5 million acres of irrigated agriculture, according to the letter.

The bill would direct the Interior Department to execute the agreements from the March 19 letter and to operate the river's reservoirs accordingly. It would stipulate that the agreements don't affect allocations of water rights held by the federal government, American Indian tribes, states, or other entities.

The measure also would stipulate that implementation would have to comply with federal environmental laws.

Drought Response

Despite some "wet" years, the Colorado River basin has experienced drought conditions since 2000, leading "to marked fluctuations and decreases in water elevations" at reservoirs, according to the letter.

If Lake Mead's surface elevation dips below 1,075 feet above sea level, an existing agreement the states reached in 2007 would trigger automatic water cuts across the Southwest. The Interior Department listed the lake's elevation as 1,090 feet at the end of March.

The new drought contingency plans (DCPs) would supersede the 2007 agreement by allowing states, cities, and tribes to maintain their legal water rights in some circumstances, even if they don't use all of their allotted water from Lake Mead.

Brenda Burman, commissioner of the Interior Department's Bureau of Reclamation that manages water supplies in the West, said a failure to enact the drought contingency plans could result in Lake Mead's elevation falling below the level at which pumps can draw water within the next decade, Bloomberg Environment reported.

"The basin is in danger," she said. The Colorado River is a "limited, declining, and irreplaceable resource."

State Positions

The seven Colorado River basin states SUPPORT the bill.

"It is the position of the Basin States, and water contractors within those states, that immediately enacting the proposed federal legislation and implementing the DCPs reduces the probability that Lakes Powell and Mead will decline to critically low elevations — which could occur as early as 2021 — and promotes both domestic and binational participation in drought contingency planning," representatives wrote in an explanation of their draft version of the bill, enclosed with the March 19 letter.

The explanation calls for immediate congressional action to allow the plans to be implemented by April 22, to allow Mexico's participation in water-use planning in 2020.

Representatives of the states also testified in support of quickly implementing the drought contingency plans at a March 28 House Natural Resources Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Subcommittee hearing.

Agricultural interests in Southern California's Imperial Valley, which rely on the Salton Sea for irrigation, expressed concerns about earlier drafts of the bill. The Salton Sea has shrunk in size and become increasingly salty during the 19-year-long drought, and the local water district didn't agree to the drought contingency plans.

Antonio Ortega, government affairs and communication officer with the Imperial Irrigation District, told Bloomberg Environment that he'd oppose legislation that exempted the drought contingency plans from environmental rules. The version of the bill scheduled for floor consideration appears to address those concerns.

Administration Position

The White House hasn't issued a statement of administration policy on the measure.

Burman spoke in favor of implementing the drought contingency plans at the March 28 subcommittee hearing.

"With these plans in place, analysis indicates that the risk of declining to critical levels decreases to what they were when the 2007 Interim Guidelines were implemented," she said. "This would help bridge the gap as Interior and Reclamation work with stakeholders to develop a new set of operating guidelines prior to the expiration of the 2007 Interim Guidelines in 2026."

Previous Action

House Natural Resources Chairman Raul Grijalva (D-Ariz.) introduced the bill on April 2. The measure, called the “Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan Authorization Act,” was referred to his panel, which hasn’t considered it.

There were 32 cosponsors — 19 Democrats and 13 Republicans — as of April 4, all from states in the Colorado River basin.

Prospects

House leaders listed H.R. 2030 for possible consideration under suspension of the rules during the week of April 8. A two-thirds majority would be required for passage.

With assistance from David Schultz

To contact the analyst: Adam M. Taylor in Washington at ataylor@bgov.com

To contact the editors responsible: Adam Schank at aschank@bgov.com; Danielle Parnass at dparnass@bgov.com

© 2019 The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc. All Rights Reserved



<https://www.chron.com/news/politics/texas/article/Lawmakers-target-lapses-in-Deer-Park-fire-13746005.php>

Lawmakers target lapses in Deer Park fire response, lax regulations

By Taylor Goldenstein, Austin Bureau Updated 7:41 pm CDT, Friday, April 5, 2019



IMAGE 1 OF 114

Emergency crews continue to douse what's left of the now-extinguished petrochemical tank fire at Intercontinental Terminals Company on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, in Deer Park. Fire crews extinguished the
[... more](#)

AUSTIN — Lawmakers on Friday grilled the director of the state's top environmental agency and local government officials on whether Texas laws are doing enough to protect the public from incidents like the Deer Park chemical fire.

Over about three hours, members of two legislative committees in the Texas House pressed for more information on failures exposed by **the March 17 fire**. Those included a lack of critical information for the public in a timely manner and what some described as lax regulations that allow polluters to keep a clean record.

Recommended Video

Rep. Mary Ann Perez, D-Houston, read transcripts of 911 calls and **news reports** from within the first hour of the fire in which local

ing at the tank farm owned by the
y were having on the air quality.

That information should have been released by 15 minutes after the fire started, she said, but instead the public and emergency responders waited nearly an hour for details, as residents were ordered to remain indoors.

FOR SUBSCRIBERS: Deer Park plant on fire at Intercontinental Terminals Co has history of environmental violations

"That was very disturbing to me because I would imagine you would need information timely enough to know, No. 1, what was burning in order for you to call a shelter-in-place?" Perez said. "In a best case scenario, how soon would you like to know what's burning?"

Perez and other lawmakers suggested companies should be required to report basic information about chemical fires almost immediately.

But while some pushed for such change, Deer Park Mayor Jerry Mouton said he was proud of the overall response and doubted anything could have been improved. Mouton blamed residents for spreading misinformation on social media.

"I don't think legislation's going to solve this," Mouton said about the response time, adding later, "whether it be here on the state level or Washington."

Mouton said legislative changes dictating response protocol could be an overreach by the state government into local matters.

"I respectfully disagree," said Rep. Tony Tinderholt, R-Arlington. "I think local control is really important, but when it comes to the safety and security of the human beings, the people of Texas, I think potentially we may need to do some sort of legislation to set certain standards for those emergency operations and decision points."

ON HOUSTONCHRONICLE: Deer Park plant fire: What you need to know about benzene

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Director Toby Baker was more open to the idea as Rep. Ed Thompson, R-Houston, pressed him on whether regulatory laws are effectively holding companies accountable. The cause of the fire has not been determined; investigating agencies include the Harris County fire marshal's office and the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.

"When the cause of the fire is ultimately identified, I commit that we're going to look at what overlays with our permitting and enforcement process," Baker said. "If there's something administratively or statutorily that needs to be changed, we will be looking at those options."

Baker said in the short term, the agency has asked for funding for handheld air monitors and mobile monitoring units as well as iPads and software that would allow TCEQ to upload air quality data in real-time. The agency currently writes measurements down on paper and transcribes them to computers with a delay of up to two hours.

During a similar hearing Thursday, state Sen. Carol Alvarado, D-Houston, told Harris County officials that they, too, should request state funding for monitoring equipment before the end of the legislative session.

ON HOUSTONCHRONICLE: In wake of Deer Park fire, Harris County officials lament lack of air monitors

Another tense moment arose Friday when Rep. César J. Blanco, D-El Paso, questioned Baker about how ITC could retain a satisfactory rating from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency despite repeated violations. ITC has been cited for violations of the federal Clean Water Act in **9 of the past 12 quarters**.

A bill Blanco filed, House Bill 4087, would eliminate the state's so-called "affirmative defense" program, which exempts polluters from some financial penalties if the impact is not considered excessive.

"My point is Texas really talks tough about going after polluters, but the reality is we have a mechanism — do you not agree? — that is currently in our books that allows

polluters to escape liability," Blanco said.

Baker said he thinks the program works and that "outside of what I would call the bad actors, companies work hard to try not to pollute."

Erin Zweiner, D-Driftwood, referenced a September 2017 order from TCEQ that found that ITC failed to prevent an unauthorized emission of over 1,509 pounds of benzene, a carcinogen. Zweiner said the agency determined that the company reaped an economic benefit of about \$6,900 over the period of the leak but levied a fine of just under \$4,000.

A bill Zweiner authored, House Bill 3035, would ensure pollution penalties are at least equal to the economic benefit of noncompliance.

"My question to you is what is the incentive for companies like this to stay in compliance if it's more cost-effective for them to not be in compliance and if TCEQ takes 19 months to follow up on the violation of the penalty?" Zweiner said.

Baker agreed that 19 months is long but said investigations are time-intensive. He said the agency receives many complaints and must look into each one.

As investigations into the Deer Park fire unfolds, Baker said he would be interested to know what action ITC took immediately after the fire and if there was there more they could have done.

"I think a lot of us know there was more they could do," said Rep. Briscoe Cain, R-Deer Park.

© 2019 Hearst Communications, Inc.

HEARST

ADVERTISEMENT

Texas House committees to hold joint hearing on ITC Deer Park fire

by CBS Austin
Friday, April 5th 2019

A

Search Site



(Photo: KPRC via AP)

Texas lawmakers held a joint hearing Friday morning regarding a massive fire that broke out at a [Houston-area petrochemicals storage facility](#) just about three weeks ago.

a storage tank at the Interna
me of smoke thousands of fe

60°

90°

92°

It took three days to extinguish the fire.

In the weeks since, Deer Park and Harris County officials said the public in the immediate area of the ITC facility [was safe](#).

The Texas House Committee on Environmental Regulation and the House Committee on Homeland Security and Public Safety listened to testimony from the EPA, TCEQ, Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and the Deer Park mayor.

"For the most part, the station monitors are not reading that high, which is what our short-term health effect is based on," said TCEQ Executive Director Toby Baker.

Even though county officials have said there are no current health risks, they are continuing [Search Site](#)



"This is a unique chemical incident that's going to have some challenges. Moving forward, our focus areas will be for recovery, the investigation side," said Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's Francisco Sanchez.

Before the hearing started, neighbors and environmental groups gathered to make their voices heard and ask for lawmakers to preserve the ability of local governments to take legal action against polluters.

"This is a time to take action. There's no need to keep waiting to see what the regulatory agencies that were put in place to protect us are going to do," said Leticia Ablaza, who lives near the plant. "We walked into a plume of smoke out of my front door step, drove into a cloud of chemicals strong enough to come my 2-year-old."

State Representative Ron Reynolds serves the Houston area, and sits on the House Committee on Environmental Regulation. He says he wants to look into possible legislation.

"I'm very concerned ITC has a long history of environmental problems," Reynolds said. "I think there are questions about the lack of oversight that could have prevented this problem from

At the hearing, State Representative Tony Tinderholt also brought up concerns.

"My concern is there may need to be regulation because our job as legislators is to protect lives, to make sure people are safe," Tinderholt said.

Neighbors were not able to testify at Friday's hearing, but both committees plan on giving them the opportunity to do so at the next hearing.

MORE TO EXPLORE

Privacy

Police: Woman raped child as man held him down

Search Site



Mother of maggot-infested baby sentenced to life in prison

SPONSORED CONTENT

People are using this hack to save money at Target — and it's actually pretty genius

Wikibuy

One Thing All Liars Have in Common, Brace Yourself

TruthFinder People Search Subscription

Texas - New Program Giving Solar Panels To Homeowners With Electric Bills Over \$100/mth

Smart Life Weekly

Sponsored Links by Taboola

ADVERTISEMENT

60°

90°

92°

Loading ...

- [About Us](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)



Today's #1 Stock To Buy

This Free Report reveals the name of the top stock poised to soar in the n ahead. TradersPro

- [Business](#)
- [IT](#)
- [Life & Culture](#)
- [Medical](#)
- [Research](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [World News](#)



#1 Stock To Buy Now

Investors have been cashing in – to the tune of double- and triple-digit returns

TradersPro



The No. 1 Stock to Buy Now

The Tech That Will 'Reset' All Human Activity...

▶ SEE MORE



Do This To Fix Slow Wi-F

Finally, there is a new plug-in device tha
can double internet speeds & Wi-Fi rea

wifiblastshop.com

Sponsored Business Content



This five-stock portfolio hands you monthly dividend payments.

Wealthy Retirement



This Event on April 26th Could Push Bitcoin To New All Time Highs

Choose Yourself Financial



A Shockingly Lucrative Cash Back Card If You Have Excellent Credit

The Ascent



Advisors: Explore five key themes of factor investing with Invesco.

Invesco US



Proven Shortcut to Stock Market Fortunes

True Market Insiders



Virginia Stock-Picking Legend Stuns Audience in New "TEK Talk".

Oxford Communique



The No. 1 Stock to Buy Now

The Tech That Will 'Reset' All Human Activity...



▶ SEE MORE

dianomi

Free Email Newsletter

Complete the form below to receive the latest headlines and analysts' recommendations for your stocks with our free daily email newsletter:

Follow @fairfieldcurren

Recent Posts

- [Invesco DWA Technology Momentum ETF \(PTF\) Shares Bought by Intl Ecstone Inc.](#)
- [Eldorado Resorts Inc \(ERI\) Shares Sold by Dorsey Wright & Associates](#)
- [Dorsey Wright & Associates Acquires Shares of 2,059 Motorola Solutions Inc \(MSI\)](#)
- [Critical Comparison: Health Insurance Innovations \(HIIQ\) and The Competition](#)
- [Entasis Therapeutics \(ETTX\) Rating Increased to Buy at Zacks Investment Research](#)
- [Q3 2020 EPS Estimates for Urban Outfitters, Inc. Decreased by DA Davidson \(URBN\)](#)
- [Marc Montagner Sells 8,333 Shares of Endurance International Group Holdings Inc \(EIGI\) Stock](#)
- [Insider Selling: Trimble Inc \(TRMB\) CFO Sells \\$70,397.00 in Stock](#)
- [Emcor Group Inc \(EME\) CEO Sells \\$75,000.00 in Stock](#)
- [Sandra Mays Sells 2,745 Shares of Zayo Group Holdings Inc \(ZAYO\) Stock](#)
- [Noble Energy, Inc. \(NBL\) Receives \\$38.55 Consensus Target Price from Analysts](#)
- [Johnson Controls International PLC \(JCI\) Receives \\$38.67 Consensus PT from Analysts](#)
- [Cabot Oil & Gas Co. \(COG\) Receives \\$28.32 Consensus Target Price from Brokerages](#)
- [Analysts Issue Forecasts for EMCORE Co.'s Q3 2019 Earnings \(EMKR\)](#)
- [JPMorgan Chase & Co. \(JPM\) Downgraded by Zacks Investment Research](#)
- [Chronobank Achieves Market Cap of \\$1.60 Million \(TIME\)](#)
- [Equities Analysts Issue Forecasts for Cineplex Inc's FY2019 Earnings \(CGX\)](#)
- [Red Lion Hotels \(RLH\) Cut to "D+" at TheStreet](#)
- [Eight Capital Raises Lithium Americas \(LAC\) Price Target to C\\$13.75](#)
- [Zacks: Brokerages Anticipate inTest Corporation](#)

2nd Texas chemical fire in about 2 weeks

Posted by [Mary Kom](#) on Apr 6th, 2019

Tweet

Share 0

Share

StockTwits Share



The No. 1 Stock to Buy Now

The Tech That Will 'Reset' All Human Activity...

▶ SEE MORE

A tank holding a flammable chemical caught fire at a Texas plant sending panicked employees fleeing over a weapon to security, critically injuring two others and killing one employee.

The fatality was confirmed by Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez and the two injured were taken by helicopter to a hospital. Both wounded were in serious condition, said spokeswoman for the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office, Rachel Moreno.

Get alerts:

[Submit](#)

Authorities closed down a roadway near Tuesday's fire in a KMCO chemical plant at Crosby, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) northeast of Houston, Gonzalez stated. Before it was extinguished by them, according to the fire marshal's office, fire crews battled the blaze.



All residents inside a one-mile radius of the plant had been ordered to remain indoors or shield in place for about four weeks. It was not immediately known how many taxpayers were influenced by the shelter set up. Crosby has approximately 2,300 inhabitants. The fire delivered a large black plume of smoke to the atmosphere.

The flame dropped about two weeks following a March 17 blaze at a petrochemical storage facility at Deer Park, situated about 20 miles (32 kilometers) south of Crosby. That fire in a facility owned by Intercontinental Terminals Company burnt for days and triggered air quality warnings. Crosby is where an Arkema compound plant has been overrun by water through Hurricane Harvey at 2017. Some substances finally caught fire and partly

Do This To Fix Slow Wi-Fi

Finally, there is a new plug-in device that can double internet speeds & Wi-Fi reach.

wifiblastshop.com

exploded.

"It's upsetting and it's debatable that we're seeing this incident in a center, especially on the heels of" the flame in Deer Park, said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, the continent's best secretary.

Samantha Galle said Tuesday she heard and felt an explosion and resides under a mile away from the plant.

"It shook everyone's home about here," the 23-year-old said.

Gonzalez stated a transport line at the KMCO plant ignited in the region of a tank of isobutylene — even a gas used in the production of high octane gas — which caught fire.

The fire spread to a nearby warehouse where chemicals are stored.

Moreno said that the Environmental Protection Agency has not found evidence that the chemical plant has been analyzing air samples.

"We didn't think anything of it we did not believe it was

Trahan said workers started running after"the tank ign



The No. 1 Stock to Buy Now

The Tech That Will 'Reset' All Human Activity...

[▶ SEE MORE](#)

He explained that he along with other coworkers had to jump over a fence to escape because the gates were secured.

A product director with KMCO, pillar Davis, stated among those emergency evacuation issues at the plant had been blocked during the flame.

In a news conference Tuesday afternoon, John C. Foley, chief executive of KMCO, stated a cause of the blaze is still being determined.

"We can conduct a comprehensive evaluation... and take action to ensure that this will not happen again," Foley said.

Davis said the fire sparked with isobutylene but had been fueled by ethanol and ethyl acrylate. These are compounds and compounds used to make fuel additives at the plant.

Davis failed to comment on the two who were hurt and the worker who was murdered saying they were part of KMCO's operations department.

Is a chemical company that offers chemicals and coolant and brake fluid products for the oilfield industry.

The Crosby, Sheldon and Channelview college districts asked staff and students to shield in place. But those orders were raised by each of three districts in place to shield.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality stated that it has dispatched emergency response staff to conduct an assessment of the fire.

"We have a very long history of investing in the people, both the systems and the assets to operate safely," he said.

Meanwhile, the Texas Attorney General's office filed a petition in state district court in Austin. The petition seeks a permanent injunction, civil penalties and reasonable attorney fees, court costs, along with restoration of investigative expenses.

KMCO has experienced environmental offenses as shown by a review of documents.

A plea agreement document stated that a plant employee made false entries in logs of atmosphere testing. Another worker then employed those falsified logs to submit reports on the state and federal environmental authorities. The document says the violation went on between 2008 and 2012.

A year before, KMCO was mentioned by the EPA for failing to comply with regulations about its own risk-management plan for its plant, but functioned with the plant to get a \$2,700 penalty.

Texas has functioned the plant with three notices of breach of a federal law because August that the EPA site reveals. Harris County had obtained an injunction against KMCO from 2009 which required the company to pay \$100,000 in civil penalties and also give investigators easy access to the plant and instantaneous notification of releases.

Associated Press authors Nomaan Merchant in Houston and Adam Kealoha Causey in Oklahoma contributed to this document.



The No. 1 Stock to Buy Now

The Tech That Will 'Reset' All Human Activity...

▶ SEE MORE

Follow Juan A. Lozano on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/juanlozano70>

See Also

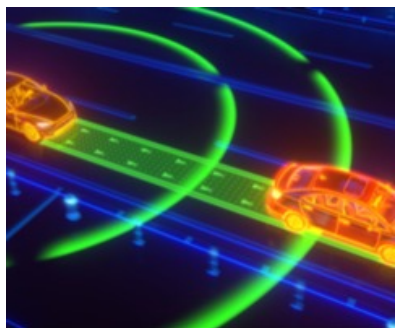


The No. 1 Stock to Buy Now ×
The Tech That Will 'Reset' All Human Activity...

▶ SEE MORE

Sponsored Business Content

dianomi™



The #1 IPO To Invest In This Year

(Choose Yourself Financial)



The rise of factor investing – what advisors need to know.

(Invesco US)



The Ultimate Cannabis Stock?

(The Trading Letter)



6 Credit Cards You Should Not Ignore If You Have Excellent Credit

(NerdWallet)



Here's the Legal Marijuana Stock You've Been Waiting For

(The Motley Fool)



A Shockingly Lucrative Cash Back Card If You Have Excellent Credit

(The Ascent)



Born After 1943? You Could Collect An Extra \$890.07 From The SSA

(Seven Figure Publishing)



CDs offer the stability of a fixed-rate annual percentage yield (APY)

(Barclays Online CDs)



Retire Rich on One \$3 Stock

(Oxford Communique)

«

[PREVIOUS](#)

[Analyzing Hubbell \(HUBB\) & Tel-Instrument Electronics](#)

»

[NEXT](#)



The No. 1 Stock to Buy Now

×

The Tech That Will 'Reset' All Human Activity...

▶ SEE MORE

[Machina Capital S.A.S. Takes \\$622,000 Position in Lockheed Martin Co. \(LMT\).](#)

More Articles



[Invesco DWA Technology Momentum ETF Shares Bought by Intl Ecstone Inc.](#)



[Eldorado Resorts Inc Shares Sold by Dorsey Wright & Associates](#)



[Dorsey Wright & Associates Acquires Shares of 2,059 Motorola Solutions Inc](#)



[Critical Comparison: Health Insurance Innovations and The Competition](#)



[Entasis Therapeutics Rating Increased to Buy at Zacks Investment Research](#)



[Q3 2020 EPS Estimates for Urban Outfitters, Inc. Decreased by DA Davidson](#)

Leave a Reply

Name (Required)

Mail (will not be published)

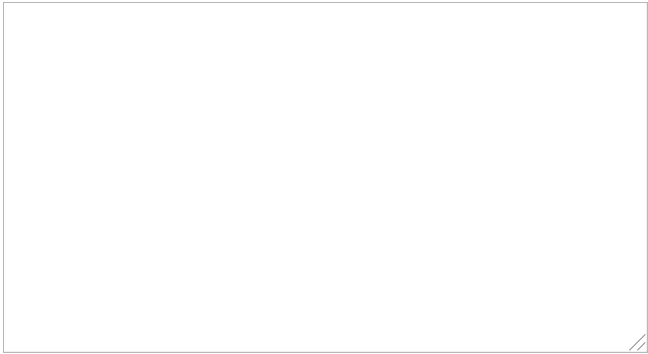
Website



The No. 1 Stock to Buy Now

The Tech That Will 'Reset' All Human Activity...

▶ SEE MORE



Submit Comment

- [Business](#)
- [IT](#)
- [Life & Culture](#)
- [Medical](#)
- [Research](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [World News](#)

© 2006-2019 [Fairfield Current](#)



The No. 1 Stock to Buy Now ×
The Tech That Will 'Reset' All Human Activity...

▶ SEE MORE



Obits **Crime** **UA basketball lands new coach** **Fayetteville Bond Election** **Style** **Today's Photo**

ADVERTISEMENT

Work on access road starts at Bella Vista stump dump

by [Mike Jones](#) | April 6, 2019 at 1:06 a.m.

1

Follow



NWA Democrat-Gazette/CHARLIE KAIJO Crew members work Friday at the site of the stump dump in Bella Vista. The work also will includes site preparation and construction of a low dam, said Donnally Davis with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality.

BELLA VISTA -- Work started Thursday on a needed access road near an underground fire that's been burning since July, a state official said.

This phase of work also will include continued site preparation and construction of a low dam, said Donnally Davis with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality.

ADVERTISING



Know your community. Read local.

Subscribe now for unlimited access to the NWA Democrat-Gazette

Lawsuits filed

At least two lawsuits are pending against prior owners and operators of the former dump, according to Benton County Circuit Court records. One was filed on behalf of Bella Vista residents Curtis and Tiffany Macomber. Bella Vista resident Jim Parsons is also suing. Defendants named by at least one of the lawsuits include: Cooper Communities, Bella Vista Property Owners Association, Thomas Fredericks, Fredericks Construction and Blue Mountain Storage; and Samuel Care Enterprise, doing business as Brown's Tree Care.

Source: Staff report

Access road construction and the other on-site work is projected to take three to four weeks. The road will allow heavy equipment access to the site for excavation and other activities, Davis said.

Environmental Quality said last month the site on Trafalgar Road must be excavated to ensure the underground fire is extinguished and won't reignite.

"An estimated 175,000-225,000 cubic yards of waste will be excavated," according to a department news release. For comparison purposes, if a football field including the end zones was dug out one yard deep, it would amount to 6,400 cubic yards.

The department accepted public comments through Friday on its plan to extinguish the fire and restore the site. Mayor Peter Christie has said he's in favor of excavating the site.

Tom Villirillo lives on Lacock Lane off Trafalgar Road. He was outside Friday at an estate sale across his street. The air smelled of smoke on the clear, blue sky morning.

"Everyone wants it right now," he said of results. "They seem to be moving along pretty well. They haven't hit a stalemate."

The latest air quality results from testing equipment at Fire Station No. 2 and near Cooper Elementary School showed readings of "good" and "moderate" from March 21-27. The results were posted Wednesday to Environmental Quality's Bella Vista Community Information Page.

The fire station had four consecutive "moderate" readings March 23-26. The other days were rated "good." All the readings near Cooper were rated as "good."

ARTICLE CONTINUES BELOW

More related headlines

VIDEO: Air quality testing shows mostly 'good' results

Millions lined up for blaze at dump

Cotton discusses stump dump fire with EPA

Officials react to preliminary response action plan to put out underground fire

Trench halts spread of Northwest Arkansas dump fire; containment tactic saves state up to \$7.5M, agency says

Department of Environmental Quality says Bella Vista fire will have to be dug up

ADVERTISEMENT

An air quality index of 0 to 50 is considered "good," according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The range for "moderate" is 51 to 100, according to the EPA.

Particulate matter monitoring measures the amount of solid and liquid droplets found in the air such as ash, dust and smoke. The amount provides a snapshot of local air quality and how it might affect health, according to the Arkansas Department of Health.

A "moderate" reading means air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people. For example, people who are unusually sensitive to ozone may experience respiratory symptoms, according to the EPA.

The EPA says the air quality index is like a yardstick that runs from 0 to 500. The higher the air quality index value, the greater the level of air pollution and the greater the health concern.

"We continue to rely on state readings to make the best decisions for our students," said Debbie Jones, Bentonville Schools superintendent. "We also encourage our teachers to err on the side of caution. If they believe the weather is too hot or cold or there's a smell that might bother some students, they will plan for an indoor recess. This particular situation has not yet caused any issues with students playing outside at Cooper."

Cooper Elementary School is at 2 Blowing Springs Road about 3 miles southwest of the site.

State officials urged residents near the fire in December to avoid prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors after an unhealthy air quality reading in the area.

Firefighters discovered the underground fire at the closed stump dump July 29. It's still burning.

Most of the waste in the landfill is expected to be wood waste, according to the department's statement. It'll be disposed of on-site using specialized equipment to keep as much of the smoke as possible from rising and escaping, according to a state news release.

The plan sets a goal of containing the fire within 30 days of after the excavation starts. No projected start date or overall cost estimate is given. The proposal includes a 24/7 operation with completion in about 180 days.

Air quality monitoring will continue throughout the process, according to the plan.

Soil, ash and any other natural residual material will stay on-site, the department statement said, while metal, tires, construction material and any hazardous substances will be disposed of off-site.

The department received \$20 million, drawn from different state government reserve funds, to get work started putting out the fire. The cost to extinguish the fire and clean the site could be between \$21 million and \$39 million, according to state estimates. The state expects to recoup its money from past owners and operators of the landfill, according to a spokesman for the governor's office.

Tom Judson, the Bella Vista Property Owners Association's chief operating officer, has said the association operated the dump on leased land from December 2003 to Dec. 31, 2016, when it was covered with soil.

Nobody monitored the site the last few years it was open, but staff members would remove trash when possible, Judson has said. The property is now owned by Brown's Tree Care.

NW News on 04/06/2019

Print Headline: Work on access road starts at dump

Topics

[Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality](#), [Environmental Protection Agency](#), [Trafalgar road](#), [Bella Vista Property Owners Association](#), [2 Blowing Springs road](#), [Davis](#), [Arkansas Department of Health](#), [Cooper Communities](#), [Benton County Circuit Court](#), [Brown](#), [Samuel Care Enterprise](#), [Lacock lane](#), [Tom Judson](#), [Blue mountain](#), [Peter Christie](#), [Thomas Fredericks](#), [Jim Parsons](#), [Debbie Jones](#), [Tom Villirillo](#), [Tiffany Macomber](#), [NW News](#)

Related Articles

NWA EDITORIAL: Burning dollars

Officials react to preliminary response action plan to put out underground fire

Department of Environmental Quality says Bella Vista fire will have to be dug up

Sponsor Content



Forget About Solar Panels - Use This Instead (Watch)

trendingguides.com



Old Man's Neighbor Blocks His Driveway With Cinder Blocks So He Teaches Him A Cruel Lesson

PostFun



Online Classes You Didn't Know About

Online MBA | Sponsored Listings

Recommended For You

Pinterest sets sites on \$1.5B in first public share offering

Spacewalking astronauts tackle battery, cable work

Nielsen leaving security agency

Comments

0 Comments

NWADG

1 Login ▾

♥ Recommend

🐦 Tweet

f Share

Sort by Oldest ▾



Start the discussion...

LOG IN WITH



OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS (?)

Name

Email

Password

- ☐ I agree to Disqus' [Terms of Service](#)
- ☐ I agree to Disqus' processing of email and IP address, and the use of cookies, to facilitate my authentication and posting of comments, explained further in the [Privacy Policy](#)
- ☐ I'd rather post as a guest




Be the first to comment.

ALSO ON NWADG


Marijuana and psychosis

3 comments • a day ago

 **bradbailey** — Which is worse, a minority of the mentally ill becoming more ill by smoking pot or the ...


Understanding why addiction is a disease

2 comments • a day ago

 **Lisa** — Bad addiction. I was diagnosed with Type2 Diabetes back in June 2017. I was ...


Numbers dwindle


5 comments • a day ago

 **Praxiteles** — And these are the future citizens the left wants to build their socialist utopia upon.

New biking law ready to roll out

7 comments • a day ago

 **Praxiteles** — This law is going to get bikers killed. Many, if not most stop signs are placed where it is ...

✉ Subscribe  Add Disqus to your siteAdd DisqusAdd  Disqus' Privacy PolicyPrivacy PolicyPrivacy

ADVERTISEMENT

Recommended for you

Most commented

U.S. to label Iran's Guard a terrorist group

Urban winner at country awards

Maine split on how to shuck clam drop

Zoo's last animals rescued in Gaza

Trump aide defends picks for Fed

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Democrat  Gazette

NWADG



Sports**News/Opinion****Weeklies****Multimedia****Contact**[Contact Us](#)[Terms of Use](#)[Advertise With Us](#)

Copyright © 2019, Northwest Arkansas Newspapers LLC. (NWA Media)

All rights reserved.

This document may not be reprinted without the express written permission of Northwest Arkansas Newspapers LLC. Please read our Terms of Use or contact us.

Material from the Associated Press is Copyright © 2019, Associated Press and may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. Associated Press text, photo, graphic, audio and/or video material shall not be published, broadcast, rewritten for broadcast or publication or redistributed directly or indirectly in any medium. Neither these AP materials nor any portion thereof may be stored in a computer except for personal and noncommercial use. The AP will not be held liable for any delays, inaccuracies, errors or omissions therefrom or in the transmission or delivery of all or any part thereof or for any damages arising from any of the foregoing. All rights reserved.



A vehicle passes across the Steele Bayou Flood Control Structure on the backwater levee Friday (Courtland Wells/The Vicksburg Post)

Backwater flood revives once-rejected pump project to lower flood risk



(<https://www.magnoliastateline.com/author/vicksburg.staff/>).

By **Vicksburg Post staff** (<https://www.magnoliastateline.com/author/vicksburg.staff/>)

Email the author (<mailto:news@vicksburgpost.com>).

Published 7:26 am Sunday, April 7, 2019

A rejected project to pump water out of the Yazoo backwater area during floods maybe getting a second look from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Yazoo Backwater Project, which proposed to use a pump installed at the Steele Bayou Control Structure near Eagle Lake to pump floodwaters from the backwater area into the Yazoo River, which flows into the Mississippi, after the backwater level reached 87 feet, was vetoed by the Bush administration in 2008.

The project was killed because of its potential impact on wetlands and wildlife in the area.

According to an April 4 Associated Press article, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler told a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee hearing his agency was reconsidering the 2008 decision.

“The Corps (of Engineers) has been looking at the wetlands issue since the EPA killed the project in 2008,” said Peter Nimrod, chief engineer for the Mississippi Levee Commission.

“They’ve come up with a lot more data that’s intriguing and interesting, and they basically have called in the EPA to review it with them and take look at the data they’ve got, and that could very well change some of the thinking they had back in 2008, when they vetoed the project over the wetlands issues.

“They’re at the drawing table with them and showing them the data and having some discussions with the hopes that they’ll realize it’s not that environmentally damaging to the wetlands and they’ll move forward and overturn the veto. At least, that’s our hope,” Nimrod said.

The Corps’ Vicksburg District in November 2007 released what it called the final Yazoo Backwater Area Reformulation for which all preliminary phases, including control structures, levees and channels, have been completed in the years since Congress first authorized it in 1941.

A pump station would be built at the Steele Bayou Drainage Structure on Mississippi 465 north of Vicksburg that moves 14,000 cubic feet of water per second from the land, or Delta side, of the structure to the riverside if and when gates were closed due to high river stages.

Designs had it protecting about 630,000 acres in the South Delta from flooding. Flooding to residential and nonresidential structures in the Delta would be reduced by 68 percent when the pump station was completed, according to the Corps report.

Perpetual rights-of-way would be sought from willing landowners to build the pump station, the report said, adding costs would translate into \$1.40 in benefits for every \$1 spent.

Reforestation of up to 55,600 acres would restore habitat to native plants and animals like the endangered Louisiana black bear, an aspect touted by Corps officials to reporters during a telephone press conference on the plan.

After a series of hearings and after receiving written comments in on the plan, the EPA vetoed the project in August 2008.

In 2017, then-Sen. Thad Cochran tried to include funding for the project in the Senate Appropriations Bill.

“The language made is all the way through the conference process until the last day,” Nimrod said, adding the sentence including the funding for the project was scratched by then-Speaker of the House Paul Ryan in the authorization bill that would have released the money.

[\(link\)](#).

AROUND THE WEB

Powered by



<http://www.zergnet.com/i/3930740/67494/0/0/0/1>

Sad Details About Country Singer's Accidental Death Revealed

<http://www.zergnet.com/i/3930740/67494/0/0/0/1>



<http://www.zergnet.com/i/3944655/67494/0/0/0/2>

This GEICO Caveman is Gorgeous in Real Life

<http://www.zergnet.com/i/3944655/67494/0/0/0/2>



<http://www.zergnet.com/i/3863733/67494/0/0/0/3>

Tragic Details Have Come Out About Luke Bryan
(<http://www.zergnet.com/i/3863733/67494/0/0/0/3>)



<http://www.zergnet.com/i/3863762/67494/0/0/0/5>

'CSI' Actress Passes Away at 44
(<http://www.zergnet.com/i/3863762/67494/0/0/0/5>)



<http://www.zergnet.com/i/3982573/67494/0/0/0/4>

What Critics Are Saying About 'Shazam!'
(<http://www.zergnet.com/i/3982573/67494/0/0/0/4>)



<http://www.zergnet.com/i/3982406/67494/0/0/0/6>

Star Auburn Gymnast Breaks Both Legs in Gruesome Fall
(<http://www.zergnet.com/i/3982406/67494/0/0/0/6>)

The (Brookhaven) Daily

Leader

(<https://dailyleader.com/>)

The Natchez Democrat

(<https://natchezdemocrat.com/>)

The Oxford Eagle

(<https://oxfordeagle.com/>)

The Picayune Item

(<https://picayuneitem.com/>)

The Vicksburg Post

(<https://vicksburgpost.com/>)

The Panolian

(<https://panolian.com/>)

The Prentiss Headlight

(<https://prentissheadlight.com/>)

COPYRIGHT

© 2019, Magnolia State Live

http://www.oudaily.com/news/chromium--levels-in-norman-water-safe-despite-exceeding-one/article_6d57b6ae-595f-11e9-ad51-0f1d84dbc5bb.html

Chromium-6 levels in Norman water safe despite exceeding one group's standards, experts say

Drew Hutchinson Apr 7, 2019 Updated 15 hrs ago

Drinking Water Quality

Health Guide

Norman water

ppb of chromium

ppb of chromium

THE SOONER SHOP
A Fanatics Experience

Grand Re-opening
Friday, April 5 at 9am

The Sooner Shop
Formerly the OU Bookstore

*ppb = parts per billion

The Environmental Working Group's website shows that Norman's water is above recommended safety standards for chromium.

Data via EWG Tap Water Database

Norman's water does not meet one environmental group's drinking water standards, but two water treatment experts said the water is safe and meets federal guidelines.

A graphic that recently resurfaced on Twitter reported that Norman's drinking water was extremely dense in chromium, a chemical element and metal often found in stainless steel. The element can cause cancer in its hexavalent form, chromium-6. The Environmental Working Group's [website](#) reaffirms what the graphic showed: Norman's water is, at a glance, far above recommended safety standards.

The Environmental Working Group's site recommends that drinking water not have over 0.02 parts per billion (ppb) of chromium-6. Norman's water contains 39.3 ppb, data from 2010-15 found. Norman's Vernon Campbell Water Treatment Plant is an environmental engineering senior and nothing to worry about.



"Our drinking water is safe and meets state and federal guidelines. We're spending money to make your surface water quality better."

First, the Environmental Protection Agency's federal limit for all forms of chromium is 100 ppb, according to the EPA website. And Croft, who composes the city's water consumer confidence report, said chromium-6 usually only causes cancer at hundreds of times this number.

Second, Wellborn said the 0.02 ppb limit — proposed more than 10 years ago by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment — is impossible to meet for most municipalities and would require expensive water treatments.

“And even if they could (meet it), they couldn’t afford it because people can’t afford the water,” Wellborn said.

To keep Norman’s water safe, Croft is required to test points of entry for wells in the city. This ensures that the water meets federal guidelines before it enters the water system, although levels can vary once the water has traveled from its source.

Wellborn said all forms of water come from groundwater — not reservoirs like Lake Mead. The city gets 75 percent of its water.

“(Groundwater is) old, and it just naturally dissolves metals. Those are the things that come out of the ground.”

Although the water meets state standards, Croft said the water treatment plant would be required to meet federal standards if residents took action.

“If this city had some standards, we could do that,” Wellborn said, “and said, ‘We want to make sure we’re meeting standards.’”

But Wellborn said the city is currently operating by federal — rather than local — guidance is usually most effective.

“The bottom line is the EPA sets a limit,” Wellborn said. “All the water industries, we are programmed to meet limits.”



Staying in Norman this summer?
Choose Cross!

Only \$999 for the entire summer

for a 4BR/2 BA | May 13 - Aug 2

CROSS
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

SIGN YOUR CONTRACT TODAY!
liveatcrossou.com | (405) 325 6194
Cross is open to OU Students



But the water treatment
chromium-6 from Nor
Bureau of Reclamation
chemical reaction used

try to remove
een working with the
ion exchange, a
chemical.

“So far (the studies) are

Another pilot study, let
microorganisms feed on

ved letting

“They’ll consume it, us
Wellborn said.

cally wash it away,”

Croft said the pilot stud
ever changes its standa

quickly in case the EPA

“We could have a way t
that on their own groundwater to see if it works,” Croft said.

ne who hasn’t studied

THE SOONER SHOP
A Fanatics Experience

Grand Re-opening
Friday, April 5 at 9am

The Sooner Shop
Formerly the OU Bookstore



Tags

Homepage News

Drew Hutchinson

news reporter

Senior news reporter



Posted Sunday, April 7, 2019 10:57 pm

Monday (April 8)

New Secretary of Higher Education New higher education Secretary Kate O'Neill and University of New Mexico-Taos CEO Patrick Valdez will host a public discussion at 5:30 p.m. at the Taos County Democratic Party Headquarters. The space is small and many people have signed up in advance so any remaining seats will be first come, first serve. O'Neill and Valdez will give an overview of the legislative session, including the new Department of Early Education and Care and graduate programs, especially in teacher training. They'll also talk about alternative and traditional licensure, the need for local people to become teachers, and future plans at UNM-Taos in teacher training and other programs.

The meeting is at 729 A Paseo del Pueblo Sur.

No town of Taos council workshop meeting this week.

Tuesday (April 9)

The **town of Taos council** will consider a summer contract for Taos Air Service, personnel matters for the Taos fire department and a \$750,000 block grant to improve two city wells and a storage tank among other issues at 4 p.m. at the Town of Taos Council Chambers, 120 Civic Plaza Drive. The council also will recognize new town planning director Nathan J. Sanchez. The council also will consider a resolution opposing a draft EPA water rule known as the "Dirty Water Rule" and in executive session will discuss the district court case filed against the town by Patrick Casey.

Questa School Board will meet at 6 p.m. at the administration office board room. The board will hear a second reading of a "gun free schools" resolution, discuss state funding available for school security, consider a vehicle auction and vote on the board retreat. The school also is advertising for several positions including junior high and high school principal, girls basketball coach, boys football coach and a special education coordinator.

Village of Angel Fire council meeting has been rescheduled for April 16 at 5:30 p.m. at the village hall.